

Executive Summary

**Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Report to the
Health and Human Services Interim Committee
On Data Collected from the
Community Mental Health Centers
Concerning
General Session 2003 S.B. 27,
Susan Gall Involuntary Commitment
November 2, 2004**

Introduction

During the 2003 General Session S.B. 27, “Susan Gall Involuntary Commitment Act” was passed. One element in the law requires the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee an analysis of mental health commitments using the following information:

1. The total number of individuals committed under the definitions of mental illness and substantial danger;
2. The length of time between issuance of an order of detention and commitment hearing, and the mental health facility or unit where the individual was placed during this time period;
3. The total cost of care given between detention of the individual and formal commitment, or until the time the individual hold is dropped;
4. For each individual committed, actual placement, including days in inpatient settings before a community placement occurred;
5. The duration for the commitment, including all recommitments;
6. The length of time between termination of the commitment and recommitment, if it occurs; and
7. The number of people lost to follow-up and why.

The bill became law May 5, 2003. Some Mental Health Centers were able to start gathering data quickly; however, some were not able to gather data until June 2003. Based on the varied start times for data gathering, the reported data is based on reported state FY04 numbers (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004).

The Division collected information from the Directors of the CMHCs (Community Mental Health Center) to report on possible effects of implementing S.B. 27.

Data from the CMHC for the period July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004 indicate:

- **562** individuals were committed under the definitions of mental illness and substantial danger.
- The average time between issuance of a detention order and commitment was **6 days**.
- CMHCs spent an average of **\$3,557** for cost of care between detention and formal commitment or until the hold was dropped.
- On average, an inpatient stay before community placement was **28 days**.
- The average duration for a commitment, including all recommitments was **108 days**.
- Only four CMHCs reported recommitments. The average length of time between termination of the commitment and recommitment was **51 days**.
- **48** individuals were lost to follow-up for all CMHCs. **66%** of all lost to follow-up absconded from community placement.
- Valley Mental Health, Salt Lake County, indicated that the number of involuntarily civil commitments pre-S.B.27 and post-S.B.27 increased by **119** from **247** to **366** (48% increase).
- Valley Mental Health, Salt Lake County, reported that all community placement costs for those committed totaled **\$493,000**.
- Wasatch Mental Health, Utah County, indicated that any increase was negligible and could not be determined to be due to the change in the law.
- Nine non-Wasatch Front CMHCs had less than 15 commitments. Some indicated that they could not determine if any changes in commitment hearing numbers were due to the implementation of S.B. 27.

**Report to Health and Human Services Interim Committee
on Susan Gall Involuntary Commitment Act
(General Session 2003 S.B. 27)**

Information Requested from S.B. 27			
	Wasatch Front	Non-Wasatch Front	Statewide
1. Number of Involuntary Civil Commitments	496	66	562
2. The length of time between issuance of an order of detention and commitment hearing, and the mental health facility or unit where the individual was placed during this time period.			
<i>Average Days from Detention Order to Commitment or Hold Dropped FY04</i>	6	6	6
<i>Mental Health Facility or Unit Where the Individual was Placed During Detention</i>			
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Utah State Hospital</i>	16	19	35
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Residential Unit</i>	4	0	4
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Other Inpatient Unit</i>	465	46	511
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Outpatient Unit</i>	1	1	2
<i>Number of Individuals Transferred to Other CMHC</i>	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>	10	0	10
3. The total cost of care given between detention of the individual and formal commitment, or until the time the individual hold is dropped. (Average)	\$3,668	\$3,508	\$3,557
4. For each individual committed, actual placement, including days in inpatient settings before community placement occurred.			
<i>Average Number of Inpatient Days Before a Community Placement Occurred</i>	21	32	28
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Utah State Hospital</i>	35	27	62
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Residential Unit</i>	46	2	48
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Other Inpatient Unit</i>	338	29	367
<i>Number of Individuals Placed in Outpatient Unit</i>	39	8	47
<i>Number of Individuals Transferred to Other CMHC</i>	2	0	2
<i>Other</i>	36	0	36
5. The duration for the commitment, including all recommitments. (Average number of days)	135	96	108
6. The length of time between termination of the commitment and recommitment, if it occurs. (Average number of days)	109	58	51
7. The number of people lost to follow-up and why.	39	9	48
<i>Number Absconded from Inpatient Facility</i>	2	0	2
<i>Number Absconded from Community Placement</i>	30	1	31
<i>Number Unknown Due to Transfer</i>	3	1	4
<i>Number Unknown</i>	4	7	11